

GETTING STARTED:

1. What is the most impressive building you have ever seen?
2. Have you even 'suffered' for telling the truth or by not going with the crowd on something? Was it worth it? Why or why not?

DIGGING DEEPER:

Read Mark 13:1-8

3. If you knew the world was going to end in 6 months would you live any differently?
4. How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus was describing the destruction of the temple? How do you think you would feel?
5. Why do you think Jesus used the temple to speak about the end of the age? What made the temple so significant? What does its destruction symbolize to them? Can you think of a prediction that would be similar in significance in our own time? (Twin Towers on 9-11 etc).
6. Does Jesus actually answer their question about 'when'?
7. Why does Jesus warn the disciples about being led astray? What things or circumstances would cause his disciples to be 'led astray'?
8. Why do you think Jesus uses the catastrophic events (wars, earthquakes, famines) that he does?
9. What does Jesus' statement that 'this is only the beginning of the birth pangs' intend to convey to his disciples?
10. If you could ask Jesus one question about this passage, what would it be?

APPLYING THE LESSON

11. How does this passage influence your thinking concerning 'the end'?
12. What 'signs' are around in our world that might cause us to think that 'the end is near'?
13. Do you think that talking about 'the end' or our hope for God's final kingdom is helpful? Why or why not?
14. If Jesus is attempting to steer us away from questions such as "when will the end be" what kinds of questions should we be asking ourselves as we witness terrible events?
15. If you knew Jesus was not coming back in your lifetime, what kind of life would you live? Is this answer different from your answer to #3? Why/Why not?
16. Read Mark 13:32-37. What does it mean to be 'ready'?